Computer education in schools

1774. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether A.P. Government has requested on 18th February, 1999 for grant of Rs. 12.54 crores for introducing computer education in schools; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the request made in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) A request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for introducing computer education in schools. However, no new grant is being released under the existing scheme of "Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools" (CLASS) as the scheme has been weeded out.

Reducing the bag-load of School Children

1775. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a five member group of academicians was lately formed to go into the desirability and feasibility of trimming the bag-load of school children and review and revise their curricula;

(b) whether such a need has also been emphasised by NCERT and educationists in general;

(c) whether any proposals or recommendations have been made by the group and if so, the details thereof;

(d) if so, whether any articulation of how to go about achieving this objective has been made; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in pursuance thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (e) A five member group of academicians has been constituted in NCERT for evolving National curriculum framework for School Education which inter alia will

examine the issue of curriculum load. The group is preparing a discussion paper and the same will be placed for a national debate. Earlier the recommendations on this issue were considered by the Government and sent to NCERT and other State Governments.

Exemptions to STs in UPSC

1776. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any concrete steps for examption of MIL subjects in respect of ST (Hills) candidates of Assam in the UPSC examinations, as requested in written by the North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anlong Autonomous council; and

(b) if so, by when it it likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government of India has decided not to allow any exemption to the candidates hailing from Assam North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anlong. The Tribal distrticts of Assam from appearing in the compulsory Indian Languauge paper in the Civil Service Examination. A Cadidate or the Civil Services Examination has to qualify in one of the Languages which find a place in the Eighth schedule of the Constitution of India. Since Assamese, which is the administrative language of Assam has been in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution since its inception and is widely spoken by majority of the people of Assam, the candidates hailing from Asaam, have not been granted any exemption from appearing in the compulsory Indian language paper.

Transfer benefits to Employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas

1777. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas are entitled to transfer benefits even if transferred on request, provided that they have stayed for five or more years at the place sought transfer from;